

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Civic Auditorium

400 N. Douty Street

Hanford, CA 93230

Kings County Public Forum: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Summary of the Public Forum Proceedings

As Chair of the Partnership, Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees to the Kings County public forum held by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

After self introductions by everyone in attendance, County Supervisor Tony Oliveira welcomed attendees on behalf of Kings County and Mayor Dan Chin welcomed participants on behalf of the City of Hanford.

Secretary McPeak gave a brief overview of the formation of the Partnership and its activities to date and began the testimony portion of the public hearing by referring to five questions taken directly from the Governor's Executive Order establishing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The questions were provided to those invited to give testimony and available to members of the public upon arrival. The five questions to be discussed are as follows:

- What is your assessment of the adopted Scopes of Work for the Work Groups and to what extent do they reflect the appropriate priorities for action?
- What projects and programs will best utilize public dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local and private-sector resources to address critical needs?
- What statutory or regulatory changes would improve the economic well-being of the San Joaquin Valley and improve the quality of life for its residents?
- What are the top 3 priorities for action that will improve the future economic prosperity and quality of life for the San Joaquin Valley?
- How can cooperation and collaboration among San Joaquin Valley public officials and civic leaders best be continued in the future and what would be the most appropriate organizational structure to ensure implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal required by the Governor's Executive Order?

Three panels of local leaders were invited to provide testimony based on the five questions at the forum.

Council Member Marci Buford introduced the Government Panel. Panel members are as follows:

Tony Oliveira, Kings County Board of Supervisors
John Stankowich, County Superintendent of Schools
Dan Chin, City of Hanford
Ron Hoggard, Hanford City Manager
Alan McClain, Kings County Sheriff

The panel suggested that the San Joaquin Valley is one of the last economic frontiers in the United States, and as such one of the highest priorities should be in the area of workforce development and infrastructure for higher education. It was noted several times that there is no four year institution of higher learning in the county; however, the need is great, both in terms of career training and providing a well education workforce for employers, but for raising the aspirations of young people.

Council Member Marci Buford introduced the Business Panel. Panel members are as follows:

Ryan Bertao, Farm Bureau
Dick Jacques, Hanford Chamber of Commerce
Linda Lahodny, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce
John Lehn, Economic Development Corporation
Don Mills, General Manager, Kings County Water District

The business panel continued the theme of the need for additional career and technical education resources in the county to help provide a trained work force. The completion of Highway 198 as a four lane freeway is also important for goods movement within the county and considered one of the highest priorities in terms of transportation infrastructure. Water quality and supply issues were also high on the priority list for the business panel. It was noted that many applications for water grants have been turned down in favor of other areas of the state. Water and land use issues are critical to the agricultural industry in Kings county as in other areas in the Valley. Creating a Valley-wide economic investment zone was suggested as a way to attract new industries.

Council Member Marci Buford introduced the Community panel. Panel members are as follows:

Judy Horn, Hand in Hand
Frank Gornick, West Hills College
Kendall Fults, Vice President, Ambulatory Services
Dale Norton, College of the Sequoias
David Grover, Kings Community Action Agency and Boy Scouts of America
Larry Spikes, Administrative Officer, Kings County

The community panel stressed that health services were sometimes out of reach to local residents, even when government programs provide such services, due to residents feeling that the bureaucracy to avail oneself of services is too great, and the underserved population feels discouraged. The panel also spoke about the lack of access to career and vocational education, and job training at convenient locations and at reasonable cost.

Secretary McPeak noted that nine flip charts, each representing and labeled for one of the nine Work Groups, were stationed throughout the room. Attendees were invited to write any additional comments on the flip charts for inclusion in the testimony.

The Secretary thanked the City of Hanford for hosting this forum and all of those people who provided testimony and public input at this public forum. The next forums will be held tomorrow in Fresno and in Merced on May 18 and Madera on May 19.

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
April 6, 2006 Public Forum Attendees
Hanford California**

Public Forum Attendees

Board Members Present

Local Elected Officials

Councilman Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville
Councilwoman Marcelyn Buford, City of Hanford
Supervisor Gary Gilbert, Madera County
Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County

Civic Leaders

Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc.
Ray Dezember, Bakersfield
Larry Fortune, Fortune Associates
Coke Hallowell, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
Jose Rivera, Kaiser Permanente
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants
Sharron Thornton, The Grass is Greener Landscape Management

Cabinet Secretaries

Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
Rosario Marin, Secretary, State and Consumer Services
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Cabinet Designees

Jamie Fall, representing Secretary Victoria Bradshaw
Jonnalee Henderson, representing Secretary A. G. Kawamura
Ricardo Soto, representing Secretary Alan Bersin
Cindy Tuck, Environmental Protection Agency

Board Members not present

Mayor Mike Amabile, City of Los Banos
Mayor Alan Autry, City of Fresno
Councilwoman Susan Benham, City of Bakersfield
Kim Belshe, Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency
Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education
Fritz Grupe, The Grupe Company, Stockton
A. G. Kawamura, Secretary, Department of Food & Agriculture
Supervisor Victor Mow, San Joaquin County
Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods

Appointed Liaisons

Kirk Lindsey, liaison to the California Transportation Commission

Barbara Patrick, liaison to the California Air Resources Board

Pete Weber, liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force

Other Key Partners

Supporting Agencies

Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center

Richard Cummings, Great Valley Center

Trina Gonzalez, Health & Human Services Agency

Mark Keppler, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno

Carolyn Lott, Great Valley Center

Mike Lynch, Great Valley Center

Ashley Swearingin, Executive Director, Central California Futures Institute

Other Guests

Elected Officials

Dan Chin, Mayor, City of Hanford

Tony Olivera, Chairman, Kings County Board of Supervisors

Community Leaders

Linda Beattie, EDD Workforce Investment Division

Debra Bolen, Maddy Institute

Steve Bridges, Foundation for Fair Contracting

David Droker, Executive Director, Kings Community Action Organization

Danny Gilmore, Retired CA Highway Patrol

Don Goodyear, Superintendent & President, College of the Sequoias

Frank Gornick, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

Gary Gray, Pharmacist

John Grego, Councilman, City of Lemoore

A.G. Hamashita, Reporter, Hanford Times

Richard Harriman, General Council, Valley Advocates

Carol Hernandez, New York Life Office, Founder of Professional Latina Association

Louise Hodges, Kings County Library

Ron Hoggart, City Manager, City of Cochran

Judy Horn, Community Director, Hand-to-Hand Resource Center

Bob Hoskins, Kings County Housing Authority

Dick Jacques, President, Hanford Chamber of Commerce/Kings Cty. Board of Realtors

Sid Kragen, Mayor of Avenal

Linda Lahodny, CEO, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce

Christina Lane, Kings County Association of Governments

John Lane, Kings County Economic Development Corporation

Carol Lang, Congressman Jim Costa's Office

John Madrid, Mayor's Education Office, Fresno

Robin Mattos, Hanford Resident

Karen McAllister, City Clerk, City of Hanford
Barbara McCurdy-Hardy, City of Hanford
Bill McMahon, Match Two Mentoring Outreach
Randy McNeirry, Housing Authority, Kings County
Olivia Mendoza, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board
Don Mills, General Manager Kings County Water District
John Murray, Mayor Pro Temp, City of Lemoore
Joe Nash, Kings County Board of Supervisors
Dale Norton, Academic Vice President, College of the Sequoias
Theresa Placencia, Office of Assemblywoman Nicole Parra
Ravi Ramalingam, Air Resources Board
Jan Reynolds, City Manager, City of Hanford
Mike Richards, Kings County citizen
Jay Salyer, Kings Economic Development Corporation
Steve Sapp, City of Avenal
Ron Sawyer, Miles Group
Larry Spikes, Kings County Administrative Officer
John Stankovich, Kings County Superintendent of School
Bennie Taple, Senior Stakeholder and Liaison for Internal Revenue Service
Alene Taylor, Kings County Board of Supervisors
Rick Thomas, Match Two Mentoring Outreach
John Tyler, City of Lemoore
Richard Valle, Office of Assemblywoman Nicole Parra
Victoria Walters, Match Two Mentoring Outreach
Colby Wells, Southern CA Gas Company
Deb West, Assistant CAO for Kings County
Neal Williams, Kings County Economic Development Corporation
Ralph Zackheim, Workforce Development Specialist, US Department of Labor